

GRAUSTARK

#45

"Fall 1910"

31 January 1965

TURKISH ARMY ENTERS MUNICH

ENGLAND: F Norwegian Sea-Norway; A Swe S F Norwegian Sea-Norway.

FRANCE: F Cly-Norwegian Sea; F North Atlantic S F Cly-Norwegian Sea;
A Eri holds; A Nor-Swe; F Den S A Nor-Swe; F North Sea-Norway;
F Mid-North Africa; F Wes-Tyr; A Tus S ITALIAN A Ven; A Pie-Tyr;
A Mun S A Pie-Tyr; A Bur S A Mun; A Ber S A Mun; A Kie S A Ber.

ITALY: A Rom-Nap; A Ven S FRENCH A Pie-Tyr.

TURKEY: A Con-Apu; F Ion & F Aeg S A Con-Apu; F Adr S A Con-Apu;
F Nap S A Con-Apu; F North Africa-Tun; F Eas holds; A Tyr-Mun;
A Boh & A Sil S A Tyr-Mun; A Vie-Tyr; A Tri S A Vie-Tyr;
A Pru-Ber; A War & A Mos hold; A St.P S ENGLISH F Norwegian
Sea-Norway.

Underlined moves are not possible. The French attack from Norway into Sweden succeeds because it is supported by the French fleet in Denmark. The English army in Sweden is dislodged, and forced to retreat into Finland.

At this point the question may arise: Does the English army in Sweden still support the move of the English fleet into Norway? For this move the question is moot, since the Turkish army in St. Petersburg provides sufficient support to make the English move F Norwegian Sea-Norway possible. The only part of the rulebook which covers this situation is at the bottom of p. 4: "If a unit ordered to support in a given province is attacked from a different province the unit disregards its order to support, 'turns to face its attacker', and defends its own position. The unit that was to have received support then, of course, does not receive it. Note that it is only a support order which is nullified by attack from the side. A unit ordered to move, even if unsuccessful, still may cut a support or stand off a single unit, even though its own position is attacked with support and it is consequently dislodged."

By omission, then, we can conclude that if the "unit ordered to support" (the English army in Sweden) is attacked from the same province (Norway) in which it is ordered to support, the support is still valid. But, on the other hand, it is hard to believe that an army attacked from one province and forced to retreat to another, can offer support in the province from which it was attacked.

A similar situation exists in the fighting around the Alps. The Turks have attacked Munich with the total strength of 3 armies, and Munich was defended only by two, since the Turkish move A Pru-Ber cut the support of the French army in Berlin. This effectively makes it impossible for the French army in Munich to support A Pie-Tyr. This French attack, supported by the Italian army in Vienna, is stood off by the Turkish attack on Tyrolia from Vienna, supported by the Turkish army in Trieste. The French army in Munich must retreat to the Ruhr.

As a result of the campaigns of 1910, England must remove one unit, and Turkey may establish one new unit. The deadline for these moves is SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 1965, but if they arrive earlier, GRAUSTARK #46 will be printed then.

The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Norway. (1)

FRANCE: Belgium, Berlin, Brest, Denmark, Edinburgh, Holland, Kiel, Liverpool, London, Marseilles, Paris, Portugal, Spain, Sweden. (14)

ITALY: Rome, Venice. (2)

TURKEY: Ankara, Budapest, Bulgaria, Constantinople, Greece, Moscow, Munich, Naples, Rumania, St. Petersburg, Serbia, Sevastopol, Smyrna, Trieste, Tunis, Vienna, Warsaw. (17)

Turkey now controls half the supply centers on the board, and after the winter moves will have half the units. The rulebook provides that: "as soon as one player gains a majority of the pieces on the board, he is the winner". Turkey can therefore win during 1911 by one of the following means:

(1) By making a net gain of one supply center, and establishing a new unit.

(2) By the annihilation of a unit belonging to another power, Turkey's own forces meanwhile avoiding loss. If, for example, one unit of another power is attacked and annihilated during the Spring fighting, Turkey will then have 17 of the 33 remaining units, and will accordingly be the victor forthwith.

ROME: His Holiness, the Pope, has suggested strongly that all Catholic nations unite to resist the infidel, and to prevent Rome from becoming another Jerusalem. The Church must last forever. Every Italian will willingly die for the faith, if need be.

LEUCA: A jumble of shoddily equipped and ill-nourished bastards landed at this town on the tip of Capo Santa Maria di Leuca early in the morning. The sole advantage they maintained over the local constabulary was a sense of patriotism and a herd of elephants. By 11 AM they had finished plundering the town and had joined the locals in a few hours sleep while the sun was at its hottest.

PALERMO, SICILY: Viva la Mafia!

*

Several players and would-be players have asked where they can get a Diplomacy set. In New York they can be purchased from FAO Schwarz or at Brentano's. (Oh, addresses. FAO Schwarz is at 745 Fifth Avenue and Brentano's 586 Fifth Avenue.) In Los Angeles, Diplomacy sets can be purchased from Games Ltd., 925 Westwood Blvd. San Francisco Diplomacy fans can buy sets at Games Imported, 117 Post St. If there is no store nearby which stocks Diplomacy, you can order a set for \$7.50 from Games Research Inc., 48 Wareham St., Boston, Mass. 02118.

If financial considerations make the purchase of a set impossible, the game can be played, though with difficulty, with a rulebook and map. Rulebooks are \$1.00 each, and maps 5¢ each, from John Boardman, 592 16th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218. The rules of postal D are available for 10¢ from the same address.

Players are also urged to subscribe to postal Diplomacy bulletins for information on improving their play. The following bulletins are 10 issues for \$1.00:

GRAUSTARK, FREDONIA, and RURITANIA: John Boardman, address above. Brobdingnag, Dick Schultz, 19159 Helen, Detroit, Mich. 48234.

Trantor, John W. Smythe Jr., 621 E. Prospect, Girard, Ohio.

Wild & Wooly, the only ill strated postal Diplomacy bulletin, is 20 issues for \$1.00 from Dan Brannan, Apt. #5, 106 S. Edgemont, Los Angeles, Calif. 90004.

ITALIANS SEIZE TRIESTE

BUT RUSSIAN ATTACK ON VIENNA FAILS - SITUATION IN BALKANS CONFUSED

ENGLAND: F North Sea-Den; A Edi-Norway; F Norwegian Sea C A Edi-Nor.

FRANCE: A Bur-Mar; A Mar-Spa; F Mid-Por.

GERMANY: A Ruh-Bel; F Hol S A Ruh-Bel; A Sil-Mun.

ITALY: A Pie-Mar; A Ven-Tri; F Tyr-Tun.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: A Bud-Vic; F Alb-Gre; A Ser S F Alb-Cre.

RUSSIA: F Bot-Swe; A Ukr-Rum; F Bla S A Ukr-Rum; A Gal-Vic.

TURKEY: A Bul holds; F Con S A Bul; A Smy-Ank.

Underlined moves are not possible. The High-Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Denmark, Edinburgh, Liverpool, London, Norway. (5)

FRANCE: Brest, Marseilles, Paris, Portugal, Spain. (5)

GERMANY: Belgium, Berlin, Holland, Kiel, Munich. (5)

ITALY: Naples, Rome, Trieste, Tunis, Venice. (5)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Budapest, Greece, Serbia, Vienna. (4)

RUSSIA: Moscow, Rumania, St. Petersburg, Sevastopol, Sweden, Warsaw. (6)

TURKEY: Ankara, Bulgaria, Constantinople, Smyrna. (4)

England, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia may each establish two new units. Austria-Hungary and Turkey may each establish one new unit. The deadline for the Winter 1901 moves establishing these units is SATURDAY 13 FEBRUARY 1965, but if all the moves come in before then, the next issue of GRAUSTARK can be published earlier. This will expedite the play of the game.

ROME: The Italian High Command, on learning of the disadvantage of a two-front war, has disembarked on a three-fronted adventure. It also announced plans for a fourth front as soon as a fourth unit is available.

LONDON (UPI): Admiral Hornblower has sent an English army into Norway and has restored order. Martial law has been declared and all suspected traitors are being arrested. The Norwegian people have been assured that Admiral Hornblower will treat the people of Norway with fairness. Meanwhile, all of England is rejoicing over the Norwegian and Danish victories. An English fleet has taken Denmark and released the two English sailors accused of spying and have sent them to London. Both sailors were given pardons by the King, and were transferred into Naval Intelligence.

With 500 armed English sailors looking on, the Danish Assembly repealed the Danish ham tariff, and then unanimously requested they be accepted into the English Empire.

King Edward looks with concern toward France and Germany. With an Austro-Hungarian, Russian, Turkish war starting, it is hoped Germany and France will not make war on each other. England may be forced to intervene in an effort to protect English interests and seize provinces where English interests are threatened.

CONSTANTINOPLE (May 6, 1901): In an emphatic statement issued by the government of His Majesty Sultan Abdul Hamid II, Emperor of the Ottomans, the recent action by Austria-Hungary in invading Serbia and Albania was condemned and the historic and divine right of the Ottoman Empire to the southern Balkans was asserted. The spurious and illegitimate Christian governments now occupying most of the southern Balkan area were called "a blot on Islamic unity and order, and an affront to good Moslems everywhere". The Moslem minorities of Serbia and Albania were urged to resist the infidel overlords of their countries to the death.

His Majesty further promised that all Christians in the newly occupied province of Bulgaria (taken by the Ottoman Northern Army under the heroic command of young Enver Bey) will be allowed the free exercise of their religion and will not be molested in any way if they will swear fealty to the Sultan.

The Russian maneuvering in the Black Sea and that country's threat to Rumania were also condemned.

ANKARA (Sept. 1, 1901): The Ottoman Southern Army, until recently encamped along the southern coast of Anatolia from Antioch to Smyrna has reportedly marched overland to the Ankara province of the Empire, presumably because of threatening Russian maneuvers in the Black Sea.

The trip through the mountain pass known as the Cilician Gates, once traversed by Alexander the Great (who left a marker that is still there), was made without difficulty. The Army had been delayed in its march by difficulties with local Arab minorities in Antioch, and made the trip hurriedly before snows blocked the mountains. The offer by a certain Indian Maharajah of elephants to help make the trip was turned down, reportedly because of the shortage of harem girls, which the Maharajah had asked in return.

ST. PETERSBURG (Sept. 7, 1901): The Romanovs left St. Petersburg today to begin their seasonal pilgrimage to the little known archipelago Donotstabme. There in the soft summer sun of the South Seas, the royal family and the court will enjoy the pleasures of their tropical paradise. The Romanovs generally return to their capital in the spring, but this year their return will be determined by the weather. Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich, when questioned, commented, "If the West Winds do not bring any unpleasant surprises, the Tsar and his royal family will return in the spring."

HELIP (Oct. 1, 1901): As the sun set on the blue lagoon, framing the swaying palm trees in the radiant glow of a flaming sunset, the royal yacht, with its escort the heavy cruiser Kiev, slowly sailed into the lagoon of the tropical island of Help. After acknowledging the warm reception of the handsome natives, the first official act of the Tsar was to change the name of the adjacent island from 'Wilhelm' to 'Damn Wilhelm'. Nicolai gave no reason for the change except to say, "I hope it costs that --- --- to change the name on all his --- maps." (I am sorry that I am unable to print the whole text of the Tsar's comments, but good taste prevents me from using such language.)

*

Would you like to begin a Diplomacy game with 11 supply centers? See the enclosed copy of RURITANIA #28 for further information.

IS DIPLOMACY HARMFUL?

When the Muslims conquered Persia in the 7th century, they also took over the popular Persian game of chess, which had been imported from India. The game had plainly begun as a model of war, with elephants, chariots, and foot-soldiers protecting their own king and attacking the enemy's. But it was sometimes played with dice, and Islam forbade gambling and frivolous amusements. According to Muhammad, the amusements of a Muslim should be confined to war, hunting, and sex. Was chess permissible?

No, said some Muslim jurists. But a certain ash-Shafi, himself a chess player, pointed out that chess was of value as a mental exercise in problems of military tactics. And the Khalif Omar said of chess, "There is nothing wrong with it; it has to do with war."

Even a nodding familiarity with chess shows that these men were rationalizing to protect their favorite game from the attacks of religious zealots. Chess had little relevance to war in the middle ages, and less now. Nor is chess taught at military staff colleges for the purposes endorsed by ash-Shafi. If his analysis of chess is correct, then the Soviet Union, where chess flourishes, could have handled Germany easily without the need of alliance with the relatively non-chessplaying United States.

Recently there has been a great outcry against the more modern war board games, as promoting a callous attitude towards the possibility of war. Much of this outcry is justified, though it should be directed not towards board games but towards military toys which are being aimed in great number at the children's market. But the critics of military toys are in error in making such games as Diplomacy their target.

In the New Republic (19 December 1964, p. 9) William H. Honan attacks Diplomacy, along with such other games as Tactics II, Risk, and the various Avalon-Hill re-created battles. Referring to a booklet entitled "War Games for the Kids this Christmas" he writes "Creative Playthings, Inc., is offering a 'family game' called 'Diplomacy' in which the progress of armies across a map of the world (sic) is assisted by 'secret plotting' and 'rumor spreading'." Honan concludes the article by recalling that H. G. Wells took a great interest in war games - as do staff colleges.

I wrote to Mr. Honan, pointing out the errors in his statements on Diplomacy and also observing that if Diplomacy teaches anything about war, it teaches that international diplomacy is founded upon deception, betrayal, and raw force - points basic to the anti-war position. He replied:

"I certainly appreciate your case for Diplomacy, which may exempt it from my charges about the others; however, I studied the game carefully and found it objectionable especially for children. Indeed, I am sure children can and do play the game.

"Does not the following comment in GRAUSTARK of 6 December 1964 bother you? - 'The Italian army in Trieste is dislodged and...annihilated'.

"Please understand that I am not trying to say that a few shakes of the dice in one of these games is going to turn one into a Heinrich Himmler. I realize that much good fun can be had from them, but I think we might do well to develop games which genuinely portray the terrible dilemmas created by modern weapons."

To meet the first of these charges, I greatly doubt that the game is played by children. To the best of my knowledge, the youngest players are high school students. I would expect my eight-year-old

stepdaughter to react to Diplomacy much as she would react to taking down Wangsness's Introductory Topics in Theoretical Physics or Miller's Tropic of Cancer from the bookshelf. She hasn't the background material or interests to find any of the three worth pursuing. The only interest she has manifested in Diplomacy is in drawing the different colored pieces out of a bag to help me assign countries by lot when a new game begins.

As for the second point, I am no more perturbed by the annihilation of a unit on the Diplomacy board than I am when I read in a chess magazine "NxB". Think what this latter move means - an anointed bishop, run down and speared by a knight! Shocking! No doubt the medievals would have done well to abolish chess, lest it stimulate anti-clerical and anti-monarchic attitudes in its players.

(Or hasn't anyone noticed anything like this?)

Present players of Diplomacy range from anti-war socialists like Jim Goldman and myself, through liberals like Len Failes and Chuck Wells, to conservatives like Derek Nelson and Phil Castora who want the Soviet Union eaten for breakfast tomorrow morning. None of us got our ideas on war from Diplomacy, and none of us are likely to change them from this game.

*

One war game which Honan overlooked is the conservative propaganda piece called "Victory Over Communism". (See GRAUSTARKs #33 and #44.) An inquiry about the game to its publishers has elicited a supply of fliers and order forms, which are enclosed.

*

Postal Diplomacy games are numbered by the year in which play began, with a letter indicating the order of the games for one particular year. Games of which I am Gamesmaster, and the bulletins in which they are reported, are: 1963B (RURITANIA); 1964A (GRAUSTARK); 1964B (FREDONIA); and 1965A (GRAUSTARK). Other games are 1964C (Brobdingnag); 1964D (Trantor); and 1965B (Wild & Woolly). See p. 2 for addresses of these bulletins.

GRAUSTARK #45
John Boardman
592 16th Street
Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Address label code:

A: You're in 1964A.

B: You're in 1964B

A: You're in 1965A

G followed by a number:

Your subscription to GRAUSTARK expires with that issue.

F followed by a number:

Your subscription to FREDONIA expires with that issue.

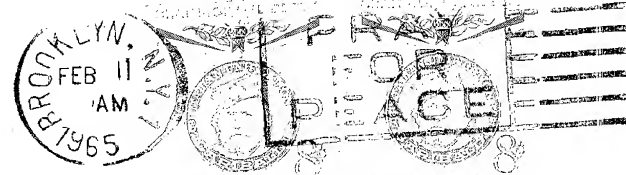
C: Complimentary Copy.

R: You're in 1963B.

S: Sample copy.

(Please subscribe.)

X: Exchange issue.



UNITED STATES POSTAGE

PAR
AVION

Derek Nelson
16 Granard Blvd.
Scarborough, Ontario
CANADA

A F30